

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A method for treating hypertension, comprising administering to a patient ~~with an elevated blood pressure~~ having hypertension an effective amount of a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), such that the ~~elevated~~ patient's blood pressure is reduced.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein renal filtration or excretion of a solute is improved as compared to the pre-treatment condition of the patient.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the solute is sodium chloride.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the solute is potassium chloride.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said VEGF is selected from the group consisting of native hVEGF121 (FIG. 6, SEQ ID NO: 1), native hVEGF145 (FIG. 7, SEQ ID NO: 2), native hVEGF165 (FIG. 8, SEQ ID NO: 3), native hVEGF189 (FIG. 9, SEQ ID NO: 4), and native hVEGF206 (FIG. 10, SEQ ID NO: 5).
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said VEGF lacks the ability to bind heparin.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said VEGF comprises an amino acid alteration within its heparin-binding domain.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said VEGF is a native hVEGF121 (FIG. 6, SEQ ID NO: 1).

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, comprising the administration of two or more VEGFs.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said VEGF is coadministered with another angiogenic factor.